

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 174

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sharon Kelly for  
meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Sharon Kelly, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kelly is a 1976 graduate of Howard High School and she began her nursing career as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) at Parkridge Medical Center at the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, she received a degree from the Erlanger School of Nursing in 1984 and went on to further her nursing career by becoming the first CNA from Parkridge to receive her certification as a Registered Nurse; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kelly served with acumen and alacrity at Parkridge for twenty-three years as a Staff Nurse, Assistant Head Nurse in the Oncology Unit, and Charge Nurse in Day Surgery, during which time she started the first African-American-owned adult day center in Tennessee, Sharon's Adult Day Center; and

WHEREAS, she later established an assisted living facility, Rose of Sharon's Senior Villa, in the community in which she grew up; and

WHEREAS, because of a lack of funding for adult daycare, Sharon Kelly started In-Home Personal Care Services in 2001 to offset the cost; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Ms. Kelley opened Sharon's Adult Day Center of Cleveland, the first adult day center in the city and, in November 2009, she created a radio program, *Caregiver's Connection*, on Glory 1260 AM and Mix 104.1 FM; due to the popularity of the

show, she was asked to host another show on Groove 93.5 FM every Saturday afternoon from 12-1 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in her community, Ms. Kelly served as President of the Tennessee Association of Adult Day Services from 2004 to 2008, during which time she was instrumental in obtaining funding for Home and Community Based Services and ensured the implementation of funding that, at the time, had been signed into law by Governor Phil Bredesen; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Kelly has served on the Alzheimer's Association board for six years, and she served for four years as the Chairperson for the Long-Term Care Consortium with the South East Area Agency on Aging and Disability; and

WHEREAS, she has volunteered for the AARP, speaking on behalf of Choices for Care in Tennessee, she served two terms as President of the Alton Park Development Corporation, and she is a sixteen-year member of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Links, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Kelly is a 2001 recipient of the Multicultural Chamber of Commerce's Community Choice Award, a 2007 recipient of Girls, Inc.'s Unbought and Unbossed Award, and a 2009 recipient of Med Week's Trailblazer Award; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Kelly is an active and devout member of New United Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, her numerous accomplishments aside, Ms. Kelly is also deeply devoted to her family and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship she shares with her daughters, Latosha and Cheri, and her five grandsons; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is undoubtedly a better place to live because of the life and service of Sharon Kelly; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Ms. Kelly who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sharon Kelly for her many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, her unwavering commitment to others, and her astute leadership; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Sharon Kelly for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, commend her outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.